



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

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IFMP right track for 'One NASA'

by Jonathan Baggs

Editors note: This is the second in a series of articles that features an employee from each NASA center who has a "One NASA" story to share.

There's a picture of "Wisdom" on Thom Holden's office wall. The picture is of an elderly bespectacled man in deep thought and it serves as a salve for any frustration that creeps into Holden's soul.

"Every time I look at it I realize there is more knowledge to be gained — more I can do to benefit all of NASA," Holden said.

He uses the same analogy when talking about the Agency's "One NASA" concept — something that Holden readily agrees with and supports.

"I think it's a great idea — long overdue," Holden said. "For NASA to fulfill its missions, all of the Centers really do need to operate as one entity. We need to pull together on projects and goals that reach across the Agency, and I believe we are on the right track toward achieving that."

Holden, 45, leads the Implementation Support Team at the

Milky Way monster stars in cosmic reality show

from the Smithsonian Chandra X-ray Center

The longest X-ray look yet at the supermassive black hole at the Milky Way's center has given astronomers unprecedented access to its life and times.

New data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory revealed that our

galaxy's central black hole is a frequent bad actor, prone to numerous outbursts and occasional large explosions.

The observations of the black hole, a.k.a. Sagittarius A* or Sgr A*, occurred during a two-week period for a total exposure time of 164 hours. During this time Sgr A* flared up in X-ray intensity half a dozen or more times. Astronomers

also found evidence that suggests it had an even more boisterous past. These discoveries will help to unlock the secrets of how Sgr A* grows and how it interacts with its environment.

"We are getting a look at the everyday life of a supermassive black hole like never before," said Frederick K. Baganoff

See *Chandra* on page 3



Shuttle accident board visits Marshall

Marshall Protocol Officer Sandra Turner, left, and Marshall Director Art Stephenson, right, flank retired Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., as he arrives at the Center last Friday. Gehman and members of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board toured the Marshall Center and met with managers before leaving Saturday.

Photo by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center

Marshall Center. He's responsible for providing change management support to the Integrated Financial Management module projects at the Center. These module projects are all part of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP), which is a NASA-wide effort to modernize its financial and administrative

See "One NASA" on page 2

One NASA

Continued from page 1

systems and processes. The IFM project exemplifies the “One NASA” approach to business. The program is implementing a series of new enterprise software systems and business processes through module projects.

“The primary focus of the Implementation Support Team is to provide the proper Center environment for “just-in-time” training delivery, adequate Center-wide communication of project plans and strategy to employees, and ensuring that the Marshall Information Technology (IT) infrastructure has been properly assessed,” Holden said.

The Implementation Support Team works closely with each Marshall IFMP project team to ensure the team strategy and plan of action is being met and that the teams receive the necessary functional support in these areas.

“We’ve got 10 IFMP module projects,” Holden said. “NASA has implemented three of those module projects to-date – Resume Management, Position Description and Travel Manager.”

Resume Management, also known as “NASA Stars,” is enabling the Agency to have one staffing and recruiting process. Position Description Management allows supervisors to use a common database for writing job descriptions. Travel Manager provides NASA one standard system for processing travel requests.

The Core Financial Project is the



Photo by Doug Stoffler, NASA/Marshall Center

With a picture of “Wisdom” looking over his shoulder, Marshall’s Thom Holden works to make “One NASA” a reality with the Integrated Financial Management Program.

fourth in the series of IFMP modules and is considered the “backbone” of the entire IFM program. It’s being rolled out in waves, and implementation at all NASA Centers for the Core Financial Project is scheduled to be completed later this fiscal year.

“The Core Financial module is the foundation for the whole IFM program,” Holden said.

The reason it is considered the foundation is that it will allow NASA staff to provide timely, consistent and reliable information for management decisions and provide an accounting and budgeting structure to enable full-cost management.

“IFMP is ushering in entirely new and

different tools for NASA employees to use and enabling the Agency to conduct its financial and business affairs in a much more efficient manner,” Holden said. “The IFM program will enable ‘One NASA’ with 10 interdependent Centers. And it’s doing that.

“As a part of One NASA, integrated financial management is a change of culture, a change of thought, a change in the way we do business,” Holden continued. “There will be rough spots, but if people will stay the course and give One NASA and the IFM program a chance, the American people will benefit as well as the NASA community.”

The writer, employed by ASRI, is the editor of the Marshall Star.

Black History Month events

- **Casual Conversation with Center Director:** 12:45-1:45 p.m., Feb. 24, in Room P-110, Bldg. 4200. Open discussion with Marshall Director Art Stephenson with a concentration on personal leadership development and performance.
- **Closing Ceremony:** 10:30-11:30 a.m., Feb. 27, in Morris Auditorium. Dr. Sandral Hullett, chief executive officer and medical director of Jefferson County Health System at Cooper Green Hospital in Birmingham, will speak. The Black History Month theme will be reflected through comedic words and a blend of the Caribbean.

Who am I?

I was born in Decatur. I attended Decatur High School, where I played running back and punt returner on the varsity football team. I had one career touchdown against Scottsboro. I graduated from the University of Alabama with a major in human resources. In fact, I may have signed documents concerning your career. Do you know who I am? To find out, see page 4.



Marshall Imaging Services/courtesy photo

Chandra

Continued from page 1

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., who presented these new results on behalf of an international team at a press conference last week at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Seattle. "We see it flaring on an almost daily basis."

The cause of the flares is not understood, but the rapidity with which they rise and fall indicates that they are occurring near the event horizon, or point of no return, around the black hole. Even when it flares, the intensity of the X-ray emission from the vicinity of the black hole is relatively weak, which suggests that Sgr A*, weighing in at 3 million times the mass of the Sun, is a starved black hole.

"Although it appears to snack often, this black hole is definitely on a severe diet," Baganoff said. "This could be because explosive events in the past blew away much of the gas from the neighborhood of the black hole."

Indeed, evidence for such events - which astronomers are viewing 26,000 years later due to the time it takes light to travel to Earth from the center of the Galaxy - can be found in the image. A faint streak of X-rays about 1 light-year long has been discovered 1.5 light-years from Sgr A*. The streak points at Sgr A*, suggesting that it may be a jet of particles expelled at nearly the speed of light from just outside the event horizon of the black hole. The intensity and size of this jet indicate that the flaring activity has been occurring for many years.

On a much larger scale, huge lobes of 20-million-degree-Centigrade gas extending over dozens of light years on either side of the black hole have also been discovered.

"These lobes show that enormous explosions have occurred several times over the last ten thousand years," said Mark Morris



Photo by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center

Tuskegee Airmen members visit Marshall

Members of the Atlanta chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. take a moment to reflect at the Black History Month display in Bldg. 4200 last week before presenting the "Tuskegee Airmen Experience" program for Marshall team members. The program included first-hand accounts of the Alabama school that trained the nation's first black combat pilots. From left is Val R. Archer, Wilbur G. Mason, Lt. Col. Sydney J. Wolfe and Gregory Grant.

of UCLA, lead author of a second paper on Sgr A*, who also participated in the press conference.

Sangwook Park, of Penn State University in University Park, and Michael Muno, of MIT, were lead authors of two other papers presented at the meeting. These papers focused on the extraordinarily rich region around the central black hole, where they detected more than 2,000 X-ray sources.

The Marshall Center manages the Chandra program, and TRW, Inc., Redondo Beach, Calif., is the prime contractor for the spacecraft. The Smithsonian's Chandra X-ray Center controls science and flight operations from Cambridge, Mass., for the Office of Space Science at NASA Headquarters, Washington.

Images and additional information about this result are available at: <http://chandra.harvard.edu/> and <http://chandra.nasa.gov/>.

NASA awards \$80 million contract extension to CSC

by Sherrie Super

The Marshall Center has extended the contract for information services with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), Falls Church, Va.

The contract extension, valued at \$79,877,680, covers the period May 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. It continues efforts under a contract entitled "Program Information

Systems Mission Services (PrISMS)" which was awarded to CSC in 1994. During the extension period, a full and open recompetition of the PrISMS effort will be conducted.

Work performed by CSC and its subcontractors under PrISMS includes support to the Marshall Center in the areas of computer systems, applications software and audio-video services. CSC also provides a range of support services

for NASA, including the NASA Equipment Management System; Consolidated Agency Personnel/Payroll System; NASA ADP Consolidation Center; NASA Incident Response Center; and the NASA Information Systems Services Utility.

The PrISMS contract has a total value of \$1,137,786,024.

The writer, employed by ASRI, supports the Media Relations Department.

Vanterpool recognized with award for 'job well done'

Michelle Vanterpool, an employee of Sverdrup Technology Inc., recently was honored with an award for a job well done regarding her duties as a business professional supporting the Accounting Operations Office in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

The award was on behalf of the Marshall Center's Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Project Office, the RSRM contracting officer and ATK Thiokol Propulsion for ensuring critical cash flow while implementing Marshall's new SAP financial system.



Vanterpool

Terry Leibold, Marshall Center

Obituaries

Freeman, John W., 85, of Gurley, died Oct. 24, 2002. Funeral services were held at Spry Funeral Home with the Rev. Billy Wayne Loveday officiating. Burial was in Trenton Cemetery in Trenton.

Freeman retired from the Marshall Center in 1970 where he was a warehouse leader in shipping and receiving. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Sara F. Freeman; two daughters, Jeri Mansfield of Wedowee and Nancy Mansfield of Huntsville; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Black History Month: Did you know?

Dr. Bernard Harris became the first African-American astronaut to take a walk in space. He dedicated it to the achievements of all African Americans.

Job Announcements

MS03C0044, AST Technical Resources Management. GS-801-13, Engineering Directorate, Structures, Mechanics, and Thermal Department. Competitive placement plan. Closes: Feb. 25.

MS03C0045, Systems Accountant. GS-510-13 (promotion potential to GS-14), Office of Chief Financial Officer, IFMP Administrative Systems, Implementation Project Office. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes Feb. 28.

MS03C0046, Financial Manager (Accounting/Auditing Services). GS-505-13 (promotion potential to GS-14), Office of Chief Financial Officer, IFMP Administrative Systems Implementation Project Office. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes Feb. 28.

MS03C0047, Visitor Services Information Assistant/Specialist. GS-1001-07, 09, 11 (Promotion Potential to GS-11), Customer and Employee Relations Directorate, Protocol Office. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes March 3.

New book on Marshall history to be released

The Marshall Space Flight Center Retirees Association and Turner Publishing Co. will release "Fifty Years of Rockets & Spacecraft in the Rocket City" this month.

The hardcover book contains 176 pages of history, including a detailed narrative of the Marshall Center. Many never-before-published photographs and

insider stories from Marshall retirees are included, along with a special tribute to Dr. Wernher von Braun and a roster of Marshall retirees.

Cost is \$39.95, plus \$7 shipping and handling. Call 1-800-788-3350 to order or send check or money order to Turner Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, Ky. 42002-3101. For more information, call Turner Publishing Co.



Photo by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center

Who am I?

Danny Hightower began his career at the Marshall Center as a cooperative education student and has worked at the Center for more than 31 years in the personnel field. During this time, he served for a year at NASA Headquarters. Danny is married to the former Polly Swindle. They have three cats – Simba, Bitsy and Buddy.

Center Announcements

Program Planning and Control classes available

Class schedules for the Intermediate Program Planning and Control Series will be announced through AdminSTAR. These classes are intended for participants who have completed introductory classes or for those with some previous experience with the subject. Other courses, along with scheduled dates and times, are available by going to AdminSTAR, or for more information, call Janie Moyers at 544-7552 or e-mail janie.moyers@nasa.gov.

Employee Assistance Program open to Marshall employees

The Employee Assistance Program is open to Marshall employees and their family members who may be dealing with issues of stress and depression. Psychologist Dr. Bruce Mathers is available by appointment at 544-7549 during weekdays. The Marshall Center also is offering Employee Assistance Program services through a professional counseling service for after-duty hours and weekends by calling 1-888-807-7997.

Earth Day logo contest open

The 2003 Earth Day logo contest is open to all Marshall team members. This year's theme is "Let's Talk Trash - Earth Day 2003." Submissions should be original artwork and each participant can enter up to three designs. The winner will receive \$50. For more information, see "Inside Marshall."

NASA College Scholarship Fund seeking applications

The 2003 call for NASA College Scholarship Fund applications is open. The Fund is a non-profit organization that awards scholarships to qualified NASA dependents pursuing study in science and engineering fields. Six scholarships will be awarded. Deadline for applications and supporting documentation is March 21. Applications are available at Bldg. 4315, or at <http://jscpeople.jsc.nasa.gov>

nasa.com/scholarship.htm. For more information, call Bill Mayo at 544-7220.

Shuttle Buddies to meet

The Shuttle Buddies will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at Mullins Restaurant on Andrew Jackson Way in Huntsville.

10th annual Great Moonbuggy Race volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the 2003 Great Moonbuggy Race set for April 11-12 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. Volunteers are needed for two shifts each day -- 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and noon-5 p.m. Positions include obstacle judging, score keeping, reporting, pre-race qualifying and start/finish line activities. T-shirts and lunch will be provided for volunteers. To sign up, go to <http://ntf-2.msfc.nasa.gov/tgmr2003.nsf/reg> or call Joel Farbman at 544-2319.

ADA 'Lunch & Learn' is Thursday

"Lunch & Learn" on the Americans with Disabilities Act will be from 11-11:45 a.m. Thursday in Morris Auditorium. Alabama Assistant District Attorney Graham L. Sisson Jr., head of state Rehabilitation Services, will lead the discussion on basic ADA employment provisions and issues of reasonable accommodation, emotional and mental health issues, conduct and direct threats.

Management Operations Office retirees to meet

The Management Operations Office retirees will meet for breakfast/lunch at 10 a.m. Feb. 27 at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Madison. For more information, call 539-0042.

Marshall Association membership drive open

Membership in the Marshall Association is open to all current and former Marshall civil service employees. The Association provides distinctive speaker events for the exchange of ideas

and information and sponsors two annual college scholarships for Marshall dependents. Dues are \$25 per year and checks should be made out to the "Marshall Association" and sent to AD01, Cliff Bailey.

Nominations for Full-Time Study Program open

The call for nominations for the Full-Time Study Program is open. For details, contact administrative officers.

AIAA dinner meeting set

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will meet for at 5 p.m. Friday with dinner at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Bruno L. Cavallo, who is retired from the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center and Veridian Engineering will discuss "Advanced, Experimental and Conceptual German Aircraft, 1936-1945." Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. For reservations, call Tom Hancock by noon Feb. 19 at 961-4002.

SHARP application deadline extended

The student application deadline for the Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program has been extended to March 10.

MARS Tennis Club membership open

The MARS Tennis Club 2003 membership drive is open until March 31. NASA employees, retirees, on-site contractors and family members are eligible to join. Membership includes use of the four MARS Tennis Club courts -- which are lighted and surfaced with artificial turf and sand -- tournament participation, club activities and eligibility for the singles and doubles leagues. To join, or for more information, call Amy Hemken at 544-7097 or go to <http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/MARS/clubs.html>.

For more Center Announcements, see "Inside Marshall"

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ HO train accessories, all unused. Remote switches, track, turntable, bridge, more. 306-0700 lvmsg.
- ★ QD5500 reel-to-reel Sansui tape deck. 883-5886
- ★ TurboTax Deluxe, never installed, \$33.74 + tax. 881-6040
- ★ Silver nickel war set in folder, \$14; Roosevelt silver dime set, \$30. 883-5114
- ★ Lowes 16' flat-bottom boat, 1990 25HP Mercury, trolling motor, new deck/carpet, \$2200. 256-740-0142
- ★ Roll-top desk, pecan finish, seven drawer, \$250. 883-0244
- ★ Couch and loveseat, traditional style, \$500. 233-1487
- ★ 2001 John Deere LT 133 riding mower w/mulching adapter, 13HP, 38" cut, \$1,700. 534-3351
- ★ 1988 Venture Bass boat, 18'5", 150 Mercury, 24vdc TM, fish finder, cover, \$4,500. 837-8003
- ★ Bedroom suite, queen-size, Pecan finish, 2-end tables, dresser, mirror, \$1,200. 1-256-586-7424
- ★ Computer monitor, Sony 15" CRT, \$50. 232-1940
- ★ Yamaha Grand piano, 5'3", Black polished finish, 4 yrs. old, \$9,500. 931-625-0671
- ★ Large desk w/wood chair, walnut finish, \$50. 880-7376
- ★ Ladies golf clubs, 2 woods, 5 irons and bag, \$40. 882-9417
- ★ Weslo Cardioglide, total body motion, low impact, assembled, \$85. 881-3597
- ★ King waterbed, light oak/oak veneer, semi-waveless, headboard-lights & smoked glass doors, \$300. 461-8721
- ★ Rosewood trimmed leather sofa, chair,

- coffee table and end tables w/glass tops, \$950. 325-0554
- ★ Coax cable RG-8U, several rolls, 50' to 250' with connectors. 533-7855
- ★ Dining table and six chairs, wood w/Formica top, one extender leaf, \$100. 325-5646
- ★ Brunswick Paragon Oak pool table, leather-wrapped pockets, cherry finish w/navy blue felt, \$2,000. 509-3392
- ★ Micron computer, 17" monitor, 400Mhz Pentium II, 128Mb RAM, 4.3Gb hard drive, CDROM, \$250. 882-1779
- ★ Lockable SUV storage safe, fits 97-00 Ford Expedition, 56.5"Wx44.5"Lx5"H, made by Armadillo Truck, \$250. 256-355-3089
- ★ Entertainment center corner cabinet, custom built, solid Oak, TV space 30"Wx36"H, \$450. 881-2131
- ★ Four Eagle alloy wheels, 5-spoke "star" style, 6-hole, fits Chevy/Toyota truck, \$185. 683-9364

Vehicles

- ★ 1994 GMC SL truck, 4x4, Z71, black, CD, auto, \$7,250. 256-796-5136
- ★ 1994 Ford Thunderbird LX, silver, v.6/V8, all-power, 160K miles, \$3,100. 353-8229/Decatur
- ★ 1998 Ford Taurus SE, V6, pw/pl/ps, tilt, dark green, 98K highway miles, \$5,400. 772-6769
- ★ 1978 Mercury Zephyr, black, 2-door, 49K miles, second owner, \$950. 256-881-3952/316-9128
- ★ 1982 Toyota Tercel, red, 4-door, 5-speed, air, 262K miles, \$950 obo. 539-6351
- ★ 1994 Toyota T100 pickup, 198K miles, \$4,500. 830-0854

- ★ 1994 Z71 GMC Sierra, extended cab, white, new Michelin tires, all options, \$9,000. 931-937-6518
- ★ 1977 Chevy El Camino, 350CI/V8 engine, auto, air, PW/PS, \$3,000. 882-1343
- ★ 2001 Isuzu Rodeo LSE, leather, sunroof, 6 CD, all power, 34K miles, \$18,500. 829-1296
- ★ 1972 Boise motorhome, 32K miles, \$5,000; 1980 Datsun 200SX, 5-speed hatchback, \$1,500 obo. 256-881-9150
- ★ 1997 Ford F-150 Lariat, 5.4L/V8, auto, leather, disc changer, 57K miles, \$12,500. 256-775-2715/426-6549
- ★ 1999 ES300 Lexus, 48K miles, loaded, rebuilt title, \$15,500. 256-757-2850
- ★ 1992 Ford Econoline high-top customized conversion van, TV/VCR, 120K miles, \$7,500. 256-586-8483
- ★ 1993 Nissan Sentra XE, 4-door, black, 121K miles, auto, air, PS/PB, AM/FM/cassette, cruise, \$1,550. 883-5479
- ★ 2001 Oldsmobile Silhouette Premier van, loaded, video entertainment system, 35K miles, \$18,900. 881-2131
- ★ 1990 Mazda 626 LX, hatchback, maroon, 5-speed, 190K miles, new tires, muffler, battery, \$2,100. 881-4748

Found

- ★ Kodak Professional Plus rechargeable battery, 7.2V, found in MSFC van. 544-8294
- ★ Silver bracelet in parking lot South of Bldg. 4200. Call 544-0514 to identify/claim

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